

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-10 AF-06 IO-13 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 IGA-02 /134 W
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P R 121530Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 750

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 1509/1

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: ECRP, PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: CERP 0001: JAMAICA CASP: AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW STATEMENT

REFERENCE: (A) KINGSTON 1422 (NOTAL) (B) KINGSTON A-58

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW STATEMENT FOR
THE EMBASSY'S JAMAICA CASP FY 1977-78 SUBMISSION (REF B);

1. THE RATE OF DETERIORATION OF THE JAMAICAN SCENE SINCE
MY LAST OVERVIEW HAS BEEN RAPID. IT IS HARD TO FIND
ANY AREA, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, OR
DIPLOMATIC WHERE, FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, A REAL
GAIN HAS BEEN SCORED.

2. THE LONG-TERM U.S. INTERESTS IN JAMAICA, AS DEFINED
IN THE CASP FORMAT, ARE ECONOMIC, BUT OUR CONCERNS
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ARE BROADER, AND IT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT

THEY IMPINGE UPON OUR MAIN INTERESTS. THESE WOULD INCLUDE THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT'S INCREASINGLY CLOSE COOPERATION AND IDENTIFICATION WITH CUBA, ITS SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CREDIT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND MARKETS FROM OTHER THAN TRADITIONAL PARTNERS, INCLUDING HUNGARY, AND ALGERIA, AND AN ACCELERATING THIRD WORLD ORIENTATION TO THE DELIBERATE EXCLUSION AND SNUBBING OF THE U.S. WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

3. TO BE SURE, THE COUNTRY HAS SUFFERED, ALONG WITH ALL OTHERS, FROM THE WORLD DEPRESSION AND THE VARIOUS ECONOMIC CRISES ARISING FROM IT. HOWEVER, THESE ARE AN INADEQUATE PROXIMATE CAUSE OF THE TOTAL SLIPPAGE. THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY AN UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ITS MANY INTERNAL PROBLEMS. WHATEVER DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE SEEM HEAVILY IDEOLOGICALLY WEIGHTED, OFTEN POLITICALLY QUESTIONABLE, AND USUALLY ECONOMICALLY INEXCUSABLE.

4. WE MUST BE CAREFUL, HOWEVER, NOT TO EXAGGERATE OUT OF PIQUE OR DISAPPOINTMENT THE EFFECT OF MANY OF THESE TRENDS. SO FAR, U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE ESSENTIALLY UNIMPAIRED, AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS IMPACT ON OUR OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST AND CONCERN.

5. THE BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS STILL CONTINUE AND HAVE NOT BEEN CONCLUDED WITHIN THE LAST CASP TIME FRAME AS WE HAD PROJECTED. THE DELAY HAS RESULTED IN THEIR BEING COMPLICATED BY AN OVERLAP WITH LONG-UNRESOLVED LABOR DISPUTES. THESE ARE OF A DIMENSION THAT MAY WELL OVER-SHADOW IN IMPORTANCE AND NET EFFECT ON THE OPERATING COMPANIES THE AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH THE GOJ ON OWNERSHIP AND TAXATION.

6. JAMAICA IS ENTERING AN ELECTION YEAR AND P.M. MANLEY IS IN TROUBLE. HIS SUPPORT IS ERODING; HE HAS LOST ENTIRELY THE MIDDLE-CLASS, MANY OF WHOM FORMERLY WERE SYM-
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PATHETIC, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1972 IT LOOKS LIKE THE JLP MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF WINNING IN A FREE ELECTION. VIOLENT CRIME, CUBA, AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY HAVE THE ELECTORATE WORRIED. THERE WILL BE GREAT PRESSURE ON THE PRIME MINISTER TO COME UP WITH SOME ACHIEVEMENTS TO REFLOAT HIS STOCK, (E.G., THE SIGNATURE OF FINAL AGREEMENTS WITH SEVERAL OF THE BAUXITE/ALUMINA COMPANIES).

FAILING GOOD NEWS, THERE IS A REAL DANGER OF HIS SEARCHING FOR SCAPEGOATS TO EXPLAIN AWAY HIS GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO DELIVER ON ITS 1972 ELECTION PROMISES. THE UNITED STATES, AS THE LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM, WOULD BE THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR PILLORY.

7. WE ARE NOT THE MODEL PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WANTS TO EMULATE IN HIS DRIVE TO ACHIEVE A "DEMO-CRATIC SOCIALIST" STATE IN JAMAICA, BUT WE ARE NOT WITHOUT GREAT INFLUENCE. AND THAT IN LARGE MEASURE IS OUR PROBLEM. WE ARE JAMAICA'S MOST IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER. WE ARE THE LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR ON THE ISLAND. AMERICA PROVIDES THE BULK OF JAMAICA'S TOURISTS. THE DEPENDENCE RANKLES. AND HEREIN LIES, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE KEY TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE JAMAICAN POSITION. IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT NYRERE OF TANZANIA 2 FEBRUARY 1976, FOREIGN MINISTER THOMPSON SAID THE FOLLOWING: QTE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED, EXPLOITED AND DISREGARDED BY COLONIALISM OR CAPITALISM DEVELOPMENT MEANS LIBERATION. ANY ACTION THAT GIVES JAMAICA MORE SAY IN DETERMINING OUR OWN AFFAIRS AND IN RUNNING OUR OWN FUTURE, IS ONE OF DEVELOPMENT, EVEN IF IT DOES NOT OFFER US MORE MONEY OR MORE BREAD. ANY ACTION BY ANYBODY THAT REDUCES JAMAICA'S SAY IN DETERMINING OUR OWN AFFAIRS OR RUNNING OUR OWN LIVES IS NOT PROGRESSIVE, AND RETARDS US, EVEN IF SUCH ACTION WITH THE BEST INTENTION BRINGS US BETTER HEALTH, MORE MONEY OR MORE BREAD.

"TO US DEVELOPMENT MEANS BOTH THE ELIMINATION
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OF OPPRESSION, EXPLOITATION AND BEING DISREGARDED, AND THE PROMOTION OF OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE, OUR OWN SELF-RELIANCE AND OUR OWN HUMAN DIGNITY. IT FOLLOWS THEREFORE, THAT IN CONSIDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICA IN PREPARING OUR PLANS, OUR MAIN EMPHASIS AT ALL TIMES MUST BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PEOPLE. OUR PEOPLE MUST BE LEFT UNFETTERED OR UNOBSTRUCTED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT PLANS. ANY THREAT OR INDUCEMENT MUST BE VIEWED IN THIS LIGHT. UNQTE. WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, OR WHETHER IT MAKES SENSE OR NOT, THIS IS WHAT THEY BELIEVE.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 AF-06 IGA-02 FEA-01

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P R 121530Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 751

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PORT

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8. JAMAICA IS ENTERING A KEY TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IN HER POLITICAL EVOLUTION. MANLEY AND THE OPPOSITION WILL BE ANALYZING OUR EVERY MOVE FOR SIGNS OF APPROVAL OR REJECTION. BOTH PARTIES EXAGGERATE IN THEIR MINDS OUR INTERESTS IN THE ISLAND AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND THEM. WE SHOULD NOT MISLEAD EITHER PARTY AND MUST AVOID THE IMPRESSION OF FAVORITISM OR HEAVY HANDEDNESS IN OUR STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS.

9. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OUR FAILURE IN 1975 EVEN TO DISCUSS IN DEPTH WITH THE JAMAICANS THEIR VIEW OF WHAT THEY NEEDED TO STAY AFLOAT ECONOMICALLY WILL COLOR OUR CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP. TO BE SURE, THEIR SUPPOSED NEEDS WERE POORLY DEFINED AND PRESENTED, BUT THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT IF THE POLITICAL WILL EXISTED ON

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OUR PART WE COULD HAVE FOUND A SOLUTION. AS IT IS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WITH IMF AND IBRD HELP THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRISIS WILL BE BRIDGED FOR 1976. WHAT HAPPENS LATER, UNLESS THERE IS A MARKED INCREASE IN BAUXITE REVENUE, A RESTORATION OF THE CRIPPLED TOURIST INDUSTRY, AND A TURN-AROUND OF PRODUCTIVITY, IS HIGHLY PROBLEMATIC.

10. THE SMALL PL-480 TITLE I PROGRAM PROPOSED FOR FY 1977 IS DESIGNED TO MEET A REAL NEED, AND DEMONSTRATE THAT WE TRULY WANT TO HELP JAMAICA OVERCOME HER PRESSING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS. A CAPSTONE CONCESSIONAL LOAN FOR JAMAICA'S DEPRESSED AND INEFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. USG ASSISTANCE ALONE CANNOT OVERCOME THE COUNTRY'S SEVERE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IT CAN, NONETHELESS, MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY, GIVE SUBSTANCE TO OUR PROTESTATIONS OF GOOD WILL, AND PROVIDE HOPE TO OUR FRIENDS. THE MUCH BALLYHOOED CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IS NOT WITHOUT POLITICAL CONTENT NOR DEVELOPMENTAL VALUE. NEITHER IS OURS. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO GET INVOLVED IN CHECKBOOK DIPLOMACY COMPETITION. EQUALLY IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE NOT TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO CUBAN BLANDISHMENTS.

11. THE CONSOLIDATION AND RATIONALIZATION OF RESOURCES AFFORDED BY THE MOVE TO A NEW CHANCERY, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR "CLEAN SLATE" REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS WILL MARKEDLY STREAMLINE EMBASSY OPERATIONS. THE REALIGNMENT OF RESOURCES, AND ANTICIPATED CUTS IN AMERICAN AND LOCAL PERSONNEL ARE DETAILED IN ANNEX B. DORRANCE

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